



## Complete Summary

### TITLE

Acute otitis externa (AOE): percentage of patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of AOE who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy.

### SOURCE(S)

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Acute otitis externa (AOE)/otitis media with effusion (OME) physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2007 Mar. 12 p. [2 references]

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of acute otitis externa (AOE) who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy.

### RATIONALE

Despite their limited utility, many patients with acute otitis externa (AOE) receive systemic antimicrobial therapy, often in addition to topical therapy. "There are no data on the efficacy of systemic therapy with the use of appropriate antibacterials and stratified by severity of the infection. Moreover, orally administered antibiotics have significant adverse effects that include rashes, vomiting, diarrhea, allergic reactions, altered nasopharyngeal flora, and development of bacterial resistance." (American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation

[AAO-HNSF], 2006) The use of systemic antimicrobial therapy to treat AOE should be limited only to those clinical situations in which it is indicated.\*

\*The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

Systemic antimicrobial therapy should not be used unless there is extension outside the ear canal or the presence of specific host factors that would indicate a need for systemic therapy. (AAO-HNSF)

## **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Acute otitis externa (AOE); systemic antimicrobial therapy

## **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

All patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of acute otitis externa (AOE) (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Patients who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy

### **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

## **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

## **NATIONAL GUIDELINE CLEARINGHOUSE LINK**

- [Clinical practice guideline: acute otitis externa.](#)

### **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

## **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Unspecified

### **State of Use of the Measure**

## **STATE OF USE**

Current routine use

## **CURRENT USE**

Internal quality improvement  
National reporting

### Application of Measure in its Current Use

#### **CARE SETTING**

Physician Group Practices/Clinics

#### **PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE**

Physicians

#### **LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED**

Individual Clinicians

#### **TARGET POPULATION AGE**

Age greater than or equal to 2 years

#### **TARGET POPULATION GENDER**

Either male or female

#### **STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

### Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

#### **INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE**

Unspecified

#### **ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

Unspecified

#### **BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

#### **UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

#### **COSTS**

Unspecified

## Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

### IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better

### IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

## Data Collection for the Measure

### CASE FINDING

Users of care only

### DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of acute otitis externa (AOE)

### DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

### DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

#### Inclusions

All patients aged 2 years and older with a diagnosis of acute otitis externa (AOE)

#### Exclusions

Documentation of medical reason(s) for prescribing systemic antimicrobial therapy

### RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

### DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Clinical Condition  
Encounter

### DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

### NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

**Inclusions**

Patients who were not prescribed systemic antimicrobial therapy

**Exclusions**

None

**MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

**NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Encounter or point in time

**DATA SOURCE**

Administrative data  
Medical record

**LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

**PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

**Computation of the Measure****SCORING**

Rate

**INTERPRETATION OF SCORE**

Better quality is associated with a higher score

**ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS**

Unspecified

**STANDARD OF COMPARISON**

Internal time comparison

## Evaluation of Measure Properties

### EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

## Identifying Information

### ORIGINAL TITLE

Measure #3 - acute otitis externa: systemic antimicrobial therapy - inappropriate use.

### MEASURE COLLECTION

[The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets](#)

### MEASURE SET NAME

[Acute Otitis Externa \(AOE\)/Otitis Media with Effusion \(OME\) Physician Performance Measurement Set](#)

### SUBMITTER

American Medical Association on behalf of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) Foundation and the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

### DEVELOPER

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) Foundation  
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

### FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

### COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP THAT DEVELOPED THE MEASURE

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## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

## **INCLUDED IN**

Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance  
Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2007 Mar

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

## **SOURCE(S)**

American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Acute otitis externa (AOE)/otitis media with effusion (OME) physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2007 Mar. 12 p. [2 references]

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Measure #3 - Acute Otitis Externa: Systemic Antimicrobial Therapy - Inappropriate Use," is published in "Acute Otitis Externa (AOE)/Otitis Media with Effusion (OME) Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician

Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site:  
[www.physicianconsortium.org](http://www.physicianconsortium.org).

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at [cqi@ama-assn.org](mailto:cqi@ama-assn.org).

## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on January 16, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on February 18, 2008.

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